



Foreign Agricultural Service

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## Canada

### Trade Policy Monitoring

### Vanclief Attacks U.S. Farm Bill at World Food

### Summit

### 2002

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**Report Highlights:** Canadian Agriculture and Agri-Food Minister Lyle Vanclief attacked the U.S. Farm Bill at the World Food Summit in Rome. Vanclief held a press conference and said that the Farm Bill will not only hurt Canadian farmers, but also developing nations, and undermine world hunger reduction goals set forth by member nations of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations.

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Ottawa [CA1], CA

Canadian Agriculture and Agri-Food Minister Lyle Vanclief seized yet another opportunity to slam the U.S. Farm Bill. In Rome, Italy on June 11, 2002 Vanclief held a press conference at the World Food Summit: Five Years Later and said that the Farm Bill will not only hurt Canadian farmers, but also developing nations, and undermine world hunger reduction goals set forth by member nations of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations.

A copy of the press release follows:

#### CANADA CALLS U.S. FARM BILL A BARRIER TO INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT GOALS

Rome, Italy, June 11, 2002 – Lyle Vanclief, Canadian Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food said today at a press conference at the World Food Summit: Five Years Later that the U.S. Farm Bill will not only hurt Canadian farmers, but also developing nations, and undermine world hunger reduction goals set forth by member nations of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations.

Several countries joined Canada in the press conference today. Prior to, and since, the passing into law of the U.S. Farm Bill, Mr. Vanclief has actively engaged colleagues from around the world to join with him in articulating deep regret with the actions of the United States.

As a result of Minister Vanclief's leadership, nine countries – Canada, Argentina, Australia, Bolivia, Brazil, Mexico, South Africa, Thailand and Uruguay -- expressed their concern that the Farm Bill is harmful to producers in Canada and around the globe.

"We know that a fair and market-oriented international trading system is vital to eliminate poverty and hunger," said Mr. Vanclief. "The U.S. Farm Bill and higher European Union subsidies distort world commodity markets and hinder the capacity of developing nations to participate actively in this system. New support payments for some American pulse crops will especially impact developing nations that are significant producers of these crops."

At the inaugural World Food Summit in 1996, Canada and more than 180 nations and the European Community endorsed a commitment to reduce by one-half the number of hungry people in the world by 2015. This year's Summit was an opportunity to assess progress towards goals set out in 1996 and to consider means to accelerate progress.

Mr. Vanclief said that the negotiating objectives made last November during the World Trade Organization (WTO) ministerial conference in Doha, Qatar will make a significant contribution to Summit goals. Ministers directed their negotiators to seek an outcome that would achieve substantial improvements to market access; reduction of, with the view to phasing out, all forms of export subsidies; and substantial reductions in trade distorting domestic support.

"The U.S. played a strong leadership role in Doha in developing a negotiating agenda to help level the international playing field. The U.S. Farm Bill is contrary to that agenda and, as evidenced by our efforts today, nations around the world are closely watching the United States for a commitment to achieving the objectives in the WTO agriculture negotiations that we all agreed to in Doha," concluded Mr. Vanclief.

End Press Release

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### Related Reports from FAS/Ottawa Concerning Canadian Reaction to U.S. Farm Bill:

Report Number	Title of Report	Date
CA2062	Western Canadian Reaction to the Farm Bill	6/4/2002
CA2066	Farm Bailout Package Being Considered	5/30/2002
CA2056	Cattlemen Disappointed with Farm Bill	5/03/2002
CA2053	Manitoba Ag Minister Calls on Canadian Federal Government to Address U.S. Farm Bill Concerns	5/02/2002
CA2050	Vanclief Slams U.S. Farm Bill	5/02/2002
CA2045	Vanclief Rules out Trade Injury Compensation	4/25/2002
CA2036	Ag Minister Vanclief Targets U.S. Farm Bill at Sparks Conference	4/11/2002
CA2008	Grain Growers of Canada Ask for Trade Injury Compensation	1/17/2002

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